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AN Epiſtle to Friends IN THE TRUTH.

Dear Friends,

ALL Love one another in the Light and Life of Jeſus Chriſt our Saviour, that forever you may be the Children of the Light; for in the Light you firſt received Living Authority and Power to ſtand againſt the Enemy of your Souls, and ſo came to be true Believers in the Name of the Lord Jeſus, and to fight the good Fight of Faith in the Lamb's War, and obtain the Victory over Hell and Death, as many as have obeyed the Lord, and been faithful to his Requirings; ſo that ſuch are become Teachers of others in the Light, to direct and turn them to the Power of God. Now, dear Friends, Hold faſt your Confidence here, in Believing in the Name of the Lord Jeſus; be True-hearted in the Power, that you may be kept Blameleſs and Pure in the Light, alwayes capable of the Teachings of the Lord: For Friends, it is the Lord alone that hath taught us to profit, and hath let us ſee his Way, as we have ſtood in his Counſel, and hath put our Enemies under us, and we reſt ſweetly and ſafely with great Delight under the Shadow of the Almighty; Glory to his Name forever, all Praiſes for evermore, who dwelleth on High, and hath given Spiritual Gifts to his Faithful Children, and is come

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AN Epistle to Friends IN THE TRUTH.

Dear Friends,

ALL Love one another in the Light and Life of Jesus Christ our Saviour, that forever you may be the Children of the Light; for in the Light you first received Living Authority and Power to stand against the Enemy of your Souls, and so came to be true Believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and to fight the good Fight of Faith in the Lamb's War, and obtain the Victory over Hell and Death, as many as have obeyed the Lord, and been faithful to his Requirings; so that such are become Teachers of others in the Light, to direct and turn them to the Power of God. Now, dear Friends, Hold fast your Confidence here, in Believing in the Name of the Lord Jesus; be True-hearted in the Power, that you may be kept Blameless and Pure in the Light, alwayes capable of the Teachings of the Lord: For Friends, it is the Lord alone that hath taught us to profit, and hath let us see his Way, as we have stood in his Counsel, and hath put our Enemies under us, and we rest sweetly and safely with great Delight under the Shadow of the Almighty; Glory to his Name forever, all Praises for evermore, who dwelleth on High, and hath given Spiritual Gifts to his Faithful Children, and is come

through the Clouds in this Day with great Power, and is ſetting up his own Authority in the Earth, that every Tongue may confeſs and every Knee bow to it, and the Mighty Great God is with us in our Aſſemblies and Meetings, when we come together in his Name, in his Service; his Preſence fills our Meetings, and his Power impowers us for the Work he hath for us to do, he hath not failed us at any time, as we have ſtood in his Counſel, and been diligent in our places to do his Will; but as a mighty clear Fountain he hath opened unto us, and directed us what we ſhould do in his Name.

Therefore this is my Exhortation to you, dear Friends, Cleave to your Services in your ſeveral Places, both Men and Women; let nothing daunt you, nor diſcourage you from performing your Duty to God in what you are called unto: You know the Power of God to be with you, who are faithful, to arm you and defend you againſt the Power of Satan, and all his *wayes*, and *devices*, and *turnings* whatſoever; the Lord is with you, and his Deſign is to arm you more and more with his Armour of Strength and Wiſdom, and to encourage you, and make you Valiant in his Name, that you may be freſh and lively, to hear the lively Voice of your Captain and Biſhop of your Souls, Chriſt Jeſus: Oh! ſhall he not go on who hath ſo glorioufly begun to Rule, and to take the Kingdom? What a Pattern hath he ſhewn of his bleſſed Reign and Government out of his Holy Mount, even to the Admiration of thoſe who behold it? Light, Light, a Day of Light and Glory is ariſen and ariſing, the God of Heaven is ſetting up his Kingdom over all, and giving the Spirit of Right Government unto his Sons and Daughters, that they may be Wiſe-hearted and Learned, to walk in his Wiſdom; and be grave and ſober, as Patterns in their Places, to receive God's living Oracles from his own Mouth, to diſpenſe them in every ſervice, according to the End for which they are appointed. This

T. is is the Standard we are to be kept unto, and the Banner we are to fight under; for the Lord fights for us, who will not give his Glory to another, nor give away his Right to Reign; For who can put him down? And as we cleave unto him, who can disinherit us, as we keep to the Noble Principle of God in Humility, fixed in the Life of Immortality in Christ Jesus, where none can take our Crown, nor Hell or Death prevail against our Faith? But if we turn from this Holy Power of God, to set up our own Fancies instead of it, and resist the Power, then though we have been on God's holy *Mount*, and in his *Garden*, and have walked up and down in the midst of the Stones of Fire, and been set by God as covering Cherubs whilst standing in the Power and precious Life of the dear Lord Jesus; yet in exalting above the Power, and the Simplicity of it, this State is dangerous and falling, and the Power and Life abides forever, and will stand forever, and the Courts of Heaven will prevail; and what is done there will stand amongst the Faithful, and never be blotted out; for God is exalting his own Name above every Name that is named, and is still prevailing in his Heavenly Wisdom; and the Glory of his House is seen, that he is setting up, and the greater then *Solomon* is the Builder and Framer thereof, by that Eternal Word that built all Things in the Beginning, and the Instruments and Workmen in the Hand of the Lord are his Saints, and faithful Worshippers, who magnifie his Name, and admire the Glory of his Presence; for when they come to present themselves before the Lord to be exercised in his Service, he gives them pure VVisdom, & doth not fail his grave and sober Ones who seek his Glory; but arms them, and defends them by his Power to stand his faithful VVitnesses.

They are no Dreamers who keep in the Power, nor silly VVomen to be captivated in Ignorance; but they go forth

in the Strength of God, and are Conquerors for God, and triumph in the Holy Power, where Victory is obtained: Theſe are the Elders and Servants of God in his Work and Service, in their Places; their Counſels he hath bleſſed, and their Hearts he hath ſtrengthened every where to a holy Life and Government in themſelves, and they are ready to do good unto others, daily waiting for the pure Openings of Life in the Croſs of Chriſt: let none hurt theſe, nor diſcourage theſe in any of their faithful Services in the Truth, nor ſleight their *work* whom *God hath choſen & found out for himſelf*, and impowered with the Gift of his Wiſdom, and fortified with his Strength; who return Praiſes to God, when they have reaped and done the Heavenly VVill.

Bleſſed be the Lord God for his great VViſdom, in managing his own *bleſſed work* by his own Power & Defence; for he hath gathered many precious Meetings of his People; and as his Power and Work prevaileth amongſt them, he makes them to know their Places and Services in the Body; thus he hath wiſely appointed our *Men* and *Women's Meetings* to be kept in his Life and living Authority, to keep Unity, and to keep out the Enemy and his Work from being owned amongſt us, but teſtified againſt in the Power of the dear Lord Jeſus, to the ſtopping of the mouthes of our Blaſphemous Enemies, who watch for Evil, and to charge Wickedneſs on the Truth and the Friends of it; therefore do we ſtand for God, and witneſs for him againſt the Evil & diſorderly VValking in any who profeſs Truth; and ſuch things are and ought to be inquired into; and ſuch VViſdom the Lord doth guide and is guiding his Faithful Children in, that they may have in a Readineſs wherewith to ſtop the mouthes of their Slanderous Enemies upon all Occaſions: So that the weighty Service of theſe *Meetings* is known to them who are exerciſed therein; and what a bleſſed Preſence of God does go along with ſuch *Meetings*, there

there are many VVitneſſes; for the Power being kept unto, it is impoſſible there ſhould be formality, or Form without Power in any of our *Meetings* whatſoever, but clear Life and the Dominion of the Lord Jeſus himſelf, the Teacher and Lawgiver.

And ſuch *Meetings* are the chief means to keep out Formality, or Form without Spirit and Power, and to keep out the unclean Apoſtatizing Spirit; for that which goes from the Power of God apoſtatizes into Evil: but in meeting to wait upon God we know was the good Exhortation in the Beginning, and the Holy Spirit of Life and Power came upon us, and filled our Hearts, and ſtrengthened our Souls to Salvation; it is a Heavenly State, and State above all other States in this Life, when we approach unto the Lord in all our *Meetings*, to wait upon him, out of the Exerciſe and Cumber of other matters, to be ſolaced and delighted together with the Preſence of God only, comforted and ſtrengthened one in another, the moſt Pure Heavenly State to the Faithful of all States & Conditions here, and the freeſt to enjoy the Lord's pure Preſence; thus it is in all our *Meetings* and *Comings together* in the Lord, a perfect Bulwark againſt the Devil and his Kingdom; and the Encreaſe of his Government will more and more be known here, until we come to that *Everlaſting Meeting* in Chriſt Jeſus when Time ſhall be no more.

And the Faithful in all Meetings and Places will do faithfully, and the Preſence of the Lord Jeſus is with them over all; but the Diſobedient have not (nor can have) their Lot in this Matter, until they come into Faithfulneſs, and then they will know, *that the God of Power and Life, Heavenly Vertue and Wiſdom, is with his People in all their Meetings*, of which there will be a great Increaſe.

And all Good Spirits will bleſs the *Meetings* of the *faithful*, and not reflect upon them; but will ſee upon every

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neceſſary Occaſion relating to Truth, what Need there is of *meeting to wait upon the Lord for Wiſdom and Counſel from him*, that every Deciſion may be by the Counſel of the Lord alone opened in his Servants, to judge for Jeſus Chriſt, unto whom all Judgment is committed, whoſe true Judgment will reſt upon the beloved faithful People, that ſo it will wholely be the Meaſuring of God in all things in all, to his Glory forever and evermore.

Ah dear Friends, ſalute one another with this holy Kiſs in the pure holy Life, Counſel, Spirit and VViſdom of Jeſus, that your Lips may forever praiſe that God who hath brought ſuch great and mighty Things to paſs, in this Day of his Power: My Tongue cannot expreſs theſe Mighty Wonderful Things the Lord is doing for his People, and the Glory he is revealing: Oh this Mighty, Ancient, Bleſſed Power of God, which we have ſo largely taſted of; Honour be to his Name for evermore, who hath thus loved us, to pour his Spirit upon us, and give us to live to behold ſuch a *Glorious Day* as this: Oh! ariſe, and ſhine forth more and more, dear Hearts, and come out of all that's viſible, to be united in the inviſible Power of Jeſus, that we may behold one another here, in that Love that is everlaſtingly Pure and Chaſte forever.

The *Apoſtacy* came in in the Primitive Times, by going from the Spirit of the dear Lord Jeſus, and then they became Proud, Conceited and Self-ended, and ſet up themſelves, and their own Corrupt Judgments, and became Formal and Corrupt in all their Meetings and Counſels, abuſing the Power of God, ſetting up their own Wiſdom and Formal Spirit againſt it, and ſo departed from that primitive Purity that ſhone forth in the Apoſtles & their Councils: So here was meer Formality indeed, and the bleſſed ancient Services of the true Apoſtles contemned, and their Work deſpiſed; thus came in the Apoſtacy, and the Earth got in,

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and the Earthly Dark Spirit; but they that kept to the Power, were kept in the Good Order, atop of the *Apostacy*, and did not fall nor apostatize.

And so now, they that keep to the Power of the Lord Jesus, it is the same, the Care and Oversight of all is committed to them, and not to the Apostatizing Spirit, that goes from the Power: So in the Power is the Government and Good Order of Jesus preserved amongst us, and the Counsel of God we find with us continued with a daily growth of Power and holy Wisdom; so that Righteousness and Holiness is running down like a mighty Stream; and what we have the sense of, we are confirmed in, in the same blessed Principle that first convinced us, and wrought mightily in us; and our Hearts are to God without Guile or Straightness, that we may entirely serve him in all things, and not our selves; this is become the Delight of a chosen Remnant, who cannot forget his ancient Mercies sealed to our Hearts; and we know by what Means and Power we stand and abide faithful to the Lord, to keep out the Enemy from amongst us, to be clear and sound in the Judgment of the Lord Jesus, that to nothing we may adhere or joyn to, but to the same Eternal Power and Spirit of God we first begun in; and here is our blessed Union and Fellowship preserved in the Strength of the dear Lord Jesus.

Unto which that all may be kept waiting for Heavenly Wisdom, Teaching, Counsel, Instruction and Direction in all Counsels, Meetings, and upon all Occasions, is the true Desire of him, who is your Dear Brother and Fellow-Labourer in the Work of the Gospel,

Written at *Waltham* in *Essex*, the 8th of the 11th Moneth, 1675.

Christopher Taylor.

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